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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET: IFD/046

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ECKHARD ALT

Serial No. 09/735,401

Filed: 12/12/2000

Group Art Unit 3731

Examiner: Michael H. Thaler

Title: TUBULAR STENT WITH OVAL STRUTS

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Office Action dated 03/05/2002, please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

Amend the claims as follows:

- B, 1 -- 61. (Amended) A balloon-expandable vascular or endoluminal stent adapted for
2 deployment in a vessel or tract of a patient to maintain an open lumen therein, comprising a
3 scaffold formed from a single open-ended tube having a solid tubular wall with a multiplicity
4 of through-holes in the tubular wall defined by a plurality of struts bounding said through-
5 holes; each of said struts having an optimized cross-section of oval shape with a short diameter
6 corresponding substantially to the thickness of said wall so that the long sides of the oval lie
7 at the outside and the inside of the tube wall at the respective strut, to enhance flexibility of
8 the stent, ease advancement of the stent through a lumen of the vessel or tract for deployment
9 at a target site therein, protect the balloon of a balloon catheter when the stent is tightly
10 crimped thereon, and enhance expansion of the stent during deployment while maintaining its

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SEP 05 2002

GROUP 3700

Title: TUBULAR STENT WITH OVAL STRUTS

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**URGENT:** Please deliver this cover sheet and enclosed Papers ASAP as follows:

To: *Examiner Michael H. Thaler, Group Art Unit 3731*
Organization: *U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*
City: *Arlington, Virginia*
Recipient Fax No.: 703-872-9302 (per USPTO website)
Total pages: 11, including this cover page.
Please notify (480) 488-9895 if transmission is faulty.

The undersigned attorney of record certifies that this cover page, enclosed 5-page Amendment in reply to Office Action of 03/05/2002, 2-page Attachment A (marked-up version showing changes) to Amendment, Credit Card payment (Form PTO-2038), and 1-page Facsimile Transmittal Letter with fee calculation (in duplicate), were faxed from his office in Scottsdale, Arizona to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the above-referenced Recipient Fax Number on 09/05/2002, at approximately 10:55 P.M., Mountain Standard Time (Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time).

By

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Dated: 09/05/2002

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